

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 7, and 9, which are independent, are hereby amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification.

No new matter has been introduced. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112 AND §103(a)

Claim 1-8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,640,301 to Ng (hereinafter, merely “Ng”), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,327,656 to Zabetian (hereinafter, merely “Zabetian”), in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,594,693 to Borwankar et al. (hereinafter, merely “Borwankar”) and Official Notice.

III. OBJECTIONS

Claims 1 and 9 were objected to due to informalities. Claims 1 and 9 are amended, thereby obviating the objections.

IV. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

A. Response to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112.

The present amendment to the claims obviates the 112 rejections.

B. Response to Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 1, recites *inter alia*:

“A communication contents certification system:

... wherein the charging means perform charge processing to charge at least one of the parties for at least one of authenticating and certifying the contents of the electronic mail depending on the storage organization of the communication history, storage method, frequency of backup, and data storage size for storing the communication contents.” (emphasis added)

The Office Action (see page 6) concedes that Ng fails to disclose or teaches the above-identified features of claim 1 and relies on column 6, lines 45-49 of Zabetian to reject wherein the charging means perform charge processing to charge at least one of the parties for at least one of authenticating and certifying the contents of the electronic mail depending on the storage organization of the communication history, storage method, frequency of backup, and data storage size for storing the communication contents, as recited in claim 1.

The cited portion of Zabetian describes “[i]n some circumstances the sender will not be registered, yet the domain or site that the sender's document is originating from may be a registered domain or site and that would suffice for billing and identification purposes.”

Applicants respectfully submit that Zabetian merely mentions “billing” and does not disclose or

suggest charge at least one of the parties for at least one of authenticating and certifying the contents of the electronic mail depending on the storage organization of the communication history, storage method, frequency of backup, and data storage size for storing the communication contents, as recited in claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action has interpreted Zabedian improperly and request the rejection based on Zabedian be withdrawn.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is patentable.

Independent claims 7 and 9 are patentable for similar reasons.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 7 and 9 are patentable.

V. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Similarly, because Applicant maintains that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicants reserve the right to address such comments.

CONCLUSION

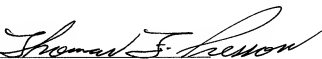
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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